

**ALBION FIRE DISTRICT, INC.**

**38 School Street**

**P.O. Box 579**

**Albion, RI 02802**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

**SPECIAL MEETING – BUDGET REVIEW**

**Meeting Date: September 24, 2013**

**PRESENT: Commissioner Michael Napolitano Commissioner Anthony Leone**

**Commissioner Sharon Remillard Commissioner Daniel Adamski**

**Chief Richard Andrews Deputy Chief Robert Valentine**

**ABSENT: Commissioner Michael Allen**

**Meeting Called to Order by Vice Chairman Napolitano at 7:00 p.m.**

**Chief Andrews presented the Proposed 2013/2014 Budget. This budget represents a 3% increase over last year's budget and is the first significant increase in five years. The tax rate needed to be increased this year to \$1.45 Residential and \$1.70 Commercial just to meet the levy based on town-wide revaluation. An increase of 5 cents to cover the budget increase is proposed which would set the tax rates as follows:**

**Residential \$1.50**

**Commercial \$1.75**

**Tangible \$3.00**

**Motor Vehicles \$1.10**

**Proposed Revenue is \$1,043,291 which indicates increased revenue of \$39,059 over last year.**

**Each line item which indicates an increase or decrease was discussed:**

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**Full-time Personnel - +\$12,618: Covers 2.5% increase by contract, longevity and stipend for two Officers now certified to perform additional duties.**

**Part-time Personnel - +\$17,500 : In order to dispatch two trucks with the necessary manpower, requires four Firefighters on duty during the day when we receive 65% of our calls. The Population of our district is approximately 4,000 which more than doubles during the day.**

**Overtime/Vacations - +\$3,000: Necessary to adequately fund vacations**

**Tax Collector Salary – (\$10,100)**

**Part-Time Clerk Salary - +\$5,200**

**Payroll Expenses - +\$2,000**

**Telephone - +\$300**

**Salary and Benefits represent 70% of the budget.**

**A discussion ensued regarding the proposed Resolutions. It was agreed to delete proposed Resolution R-7 and to modify Proposed Resolution R-14 to indicate that the line of credit would only be used if we do not have adequate surplus to cover expenses. If the Resolution for split tax payments is not approved by the voters, the line of credit Resolution would not be necessary.**

**Robert Wingate questioned the amount of surplus funds and whether it was prudent to apply for a grant for a Class A Fire Pumper with merger talks in progress.**

**Rene Remillard commented on the public perception of the surplus. Chief Andrews responded that if the voters approve the proposed resolutions the surplus would be in line with the 15% recommended by the public accounting firm.**

**Commissioner Leone asked our chances for winning the truck grant, which the Deputy Chief advised were very small but it is important that we at least apply.**

**Robert Wingate questioned how many taxpayers requested split tax payments. Commissioner Napolitano advised that just one taxpayer approached the Board on this requesting quarterly Payments as the Town does. The Board decided that semi-annual payments would be doable but to let the taxpayers decide at the Annual Meeting.**

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**Robert Wingate questioned the Chief on the difference between the Town Building Code standards and the NFPA standards as they relate to renovations of the station sleeping quarters. The Chief advised that NFPA standards are more stringent and involve Firefighter Health and Safety Standards.**

**There being no further discussion, Commissioner Remillard made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55p.m., seconded by Commissioner Adamski. Motion passed 4-0.**

**Lois E. Moore  
District Clerk**